

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 ARA-06 /077 W

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O R 091055Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5579

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, AO

SUBJ: CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) LISBON 0091 (DTG 071205Z JAN 76), (B) LISBON 0142
(DTG 081839Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: FONMIN SPOKESMAN DENIES THAT AZORES BEING USED TO
TRANSPORT CUBANS TO ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN, ALFREDO BARROSO, RESPONDED
TO JAIME GAMA'S QUERY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (REF A) BY
DENYING THERE EXISTS A CUBAN AERIAL BRIDGE THROUGH THE AZORES.

2. BARROSO SAID SANTA MARIA AIRPORT WAS USED BY COMMERCIAL
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CUBAN AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR GUINEA BISSAU. THIS ACTIVITY FELL

UNDER THE BILATERAL ACCORD ON AERIAL NAVIGATION BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND CUBA OF JUNE 1951 AND THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

3. BARROSO NOTED THAT WHAT HAD CAUGHT AZOREAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS' ATTENTION WAS FACT THAT MANY CUBAN AIRCRAFT AND PASSENGERS HAD PASSED THROUGH AZORES AND RETURNED EMPTY. BARROSO ADDED THAT "THEY HAD NO PROOF" THAT PASSENGERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MILITARY.

4. BARROSO SAID PORTUGAL CONDEMNED ALL EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WOULD HAVE OFFICIAL REPLY TO GAMA'S REQUEST LATER ON.

5. COMMENT: BARROSO SPOKE ONLY ABOUT PAST FLIGHTS, IMPLYING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE. A CLOSE RELATIVE OF SOARES'S WIFE AND A SOCIALIST HIMSELF, BARROSO IN HIS PRESS STATEMENT MANAGED TO BRING TO THE FOREFRONT THE QUESTIONABLE ASPECTS OF THE FLIGHTS AT THE SAME TIME HE PUT OUT THE OFFICIAL LINE. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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